

CLAIMS

1 1. A method in a computer system for conducting electronic
2 commerce, the method comprising:
3 providing a plurality of electronic shopping carts, each electronic
4 shopping cart having an indication of items currently within the electronic
5 shopping cart and billing and shipment information;
6 generating a display that identifies each of the provided electronic
7 shopping carts;
8 sending the generated display to a user computer system;
9 receiving a selection of one of the identified electronic shopping
10 carts from the user computer system;
11 receiving a selection of an item from the user computer system;
12 in response to receiving the selection of the item, adding the item to
13 the selected electronic shopping cart;
14 receiving an indication to checkout the items in the selected
15 electronic shopping cart from the user computer system; and
16 in response to receiving the indication to checkout,
17 shipping the items in the selected electronic shopping cart in
18 accordance with the shipment information of the selected electronic shopping
19 cart; and
20 billing for the items in the selected electronic shopping cart
21 in accordance with the billing information for the selected electronic shopping
22 cart
23 whereby a user can select each of the plurality of electronic
24 shopping carts for adding items to the electronic shopping carts.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the user can provide an
2 identifier for each electronic shopping cart.

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1 3. The method of claim 1 including tracking activity performed
2 by the user while each electronic shopping cart is selected.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein, after receiving a selection
2 of an electronic shopping cart, modifying a display based on information relating
3 to the selected electronic shopping cart.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the user selects one of the
2 plurality of electronic shopping carts with a single action.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the selection of an item and
2 the indication to checkout the item is performed by a single action.

1 7. A method in a computer system for conducting electronic
2 commerce, the method comprising:

3 providing a plurality of electronic commerce contexts for a user,
4 each electronic commerce context having information relating to electronic
5 commerce conducted while in that electronic commerce context;

6 receiving from the user a selection of one of the plurality of
7 electronic commerce contexts;

8 after receiving the selection of the one of the plurality of electronic
9 commerce contexts, conducting electronic commerce with the user; and

10 associating, with the selected electronic commerce context,
11 information relating to the electronic commerce conducted with the user so that
12 when the user subsequently selects that selected electronic commerce context
13 from the plurality of electronic commerce contexts, the associated information is
14 available for conducting subsequent electronic commerce.

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1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the electronic commerce
2 includes selecting items and the information includes the identity of the items
3 previously selected.

1 9. The method of claim 8 including presenting to the user a
2 recommendation for items based on items previously selected while in the
3 currently selected electronic commerce context.

1 10. The method of claim 8 including presenting to another user
2 a recommendation for items based on items previously selected by the user while
3 in a certain electronic commerce context.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the other user selects an
2 item as a gift for the user.

1 12. The method of claim 8 including providing to another user a
2 list of items selected in one of the electronic commerce contexts.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the other user purchases
2 one of the items in the list as a gift for the user.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the purchased gift is
2 shipped to the user in accordance with the electronic commerce context in which
3 the item was selected.

1 15. The method of claim 7 wherein the user establishes a
2 connection when conducting electronic commerce and including persistently
3 storing the information so that the information is available when the user next
4 establishes a connection.

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1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the information includes
2 items selected to be ordered but that have not yet been ordered.

1 17. The method of claim 7 wherein each electronic commerce
2 context has associated billing information relating to electronic commerce
3 conducted while in that electronic commerce context.

1 18. The method of claim 7 wherein each electronic commerce
2 context has associated shipment information relating to electronic commerce
3 conducted while in that electronic commerce context.

1 19. The method of claim 7 wherein the receiving of a selection
2 includes sending to the user an indication of each of the plurality of electronic
3 commerce contexts.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the sent indications are to
2 be displayed simultaneously to the user for selection of one of the indications.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the selection is performed
2 with a single action by the user.

1 22. The method of claim 20 wherein the selection is performed
2 by a click of a pointing device.

1 23. The method of claim 7 including receiving from the user an
2 identifier for an electronic commerce context.

1 24. The method of claim 23 wherein each electronic commerce
2 context is identified by the identifier received from the user.

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1 28. The method of claim 7 wherein the user indicates that
2 another user can access information associated with an electronic commerce
3 context.

1 ~~30~~. The computer system of claim ~~29~~ wherein the electronic
2 commerce includes selecting items and the information includes the identity of
3 the items previously selected.

1 ³⁵~~31~~. The computer system of claim ³⁴~~30~~ including a component
 2 that generates a recommendation for items to select based on items previously
 3 selected while in the currently selected electronic commerce context.

1 ³⁶~~32~~. The computer system of claim ³⁵~~31~~ wherein the generated
 2 recommendation is presented to another user.

1 ³⁷~~33~~. The computer system of claim ³⁶~~32~~ wherein an item selected
 2 by the other user is a gift for the user.

1 ³⁸~~34~~. The computer system of claim ³³~~29~~ including a component
 2 that persistently stores the information.

1 ³⁹~~35~~. The computer system of claim ³⁸~~34~~ wherein the information
 2 includes items selected to be ordered but that have not yet been ordered.

1 ⁴⁰~~36~~. The computer system of claim ³⁹~~35~~ wherein each electronic
 2 commerce context has associated billing information relating to electronic
 3 commerce conducted while in that electronic commerce context.

1 ⁴¹~~37~~. The computer system of claim ³³~~29~~ wherein each electronic
 2 commerce context has associated shipment information relating to electronic
 3 commerce conducted while in that electronic commerce context.

1 ⁴²~~38~~. The computer system of claim ³³~~29~~ wherein the component
 2 that receives a selection sends to the user an indication of each of the plurality of
 3 electronic commerce contexts.

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~~39.~~ The computer system of claim ~~38~~ 44 wherein the sent
 1 indications are to be displayed simultaneously to the user for selection of one of
 2 the indications.
 3

40. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for
 1 causing a computer system to conduct electronic commerce, by:
 2 providing a plurality of electronic commerce contexts for a user;
 3 receiving from the user a selection of one of the plurality of
 4 electronic commerce contexts; and
 5 after receiving the selection of the one of the plurality of electronic
 6 commerce contexts, conducting electronic commerce with the user in the selected
 7 electronic commerce context.
 8

~~41.~~ The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the
 1 electronic commerce includes selecting items and the computer system maintains
 2 information for the selected electronic commerce context that includes the
 3 identity of the items previously selected.
 4

42. The computer-readable medium of claim 41 including
 1 presenting to the user a recommendation for items to select based on items
 2 previously selected while in the currently selected electronic commerce context.
 3

43. The computer-readable medium of claim 41 including
 1 presenting to another user a recommendation for items to select based on items
 2 previously selected by the user while in a certain electronic commerce context.
 3

44. The computer-readable medium of claim 43 wherein an item
 1 selected by the other user is a gift for the user.
 2

45. A method for conducting electronic commerce, the method comprising:

selecting one of a plurality of electronic commerce contexts for a user; and

after selecting an electronic commerce context, conducting electronic commerce with the user

whereby the conducted electronic commerce is associated with the selected electronic commerce context.

46. The method of claim 45 including displaying selection navigation information that indicates each of the plurality of electronic commerce contexts.

47. The method of claim 46 wherein the selecting is performed by a single action relating to the displayed selection navigation information.

48. The method of claim 45 wherein each electronic commerce context has an associated electronic shopping cart.

49. The method of claim 45 wherein the conducting of electronic commerce includes selecting items to purchase.

50. The method of claim 45 wherein each of the plurality of electronic commerce contexts has associated information relating to electronic commerce conducted while that electronic commerce context was selected.

51. The method of claim 45 including displaying viewing navigation information that indicates each of the plurality of electronic commerce contexts.

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1 52. The method of claim 51 wherein when an electronic
2 commerce context is selected from the viewing navigation information,
3 information relating to that electronic commerce context is displayed.

1 53. The method of claim 45 wherein the user supplies an
2 identifier for each electronic commerce context.

1 54. The method of claim 45 wherein no electronic commerce
2 context is initially provided.

1 55. The method of claim 54 wherein a user provides multiple
2 electronic commerce contexts.

1 56. The method of claim 45 wherein only one electronic
2 commerce context is initially provided.

1 57. The method of claim 56 wherein the user provides
2 additional electronic commerce contexts.

1 58. The method of claim 45 wherein multiple electronic
2 commerce contexts are initially provided.

1 59. A method for interacting with a computer, the method
2 comprising:
3 selecting one of a plurality of interaction contexts for a user; and
4 after selecting an interaction context, interacting with the user
5 whereby the interacting is associated with the selected interaction
6 context.

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1 60. The method of claim 59 including displaying selection
2 navigation information that indicates each of the plurality of interaction contexts.

1 61. The method of claim 60 wherein the selecting is performed
2 by a single action relating to the displayed selection navigation information.

1 62. The method of claim 59 wherein the interacting includes use
2 of a search engine.

1 63. The method of claim 59 wherein the interacting includes
2 conducting of electronic commerce.

1 64. The method of claim 59 wherein each of the plurality of
2 interaction contexts has associated information relating to interactions engaged in
3 while that interaction context was selected.

1 65. The method of claim 59 including displaying viewing
2 navigation information that indicates each of the plurality of interaction contexts.

1 66. The method of claim 65 wherein when an interaction
2 context is selected from the viewing navigation information, information relating
3 to that interaction context is displayed.

1 67. The method of claim 59 wherein the user supplies an
2 identifier for each interaction context.

1 68. The method of claim 59 wherein no interaction context is
2 initially provided.

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69. The method of claim 68 wherein a user subsequently provides multiple interaction contexts.

70. The method of claim 59 wherein only one interaction context is initially provided.

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71. The method of claim 58 wherein the user subsequently provides additional interaction contexts.

72. The method of claim 59 wherein multiple interaction contexts are initially provided. C

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73. The method of claim 7 including limiting the electronic commerce conducted while an electronic commerce context is selected to a specified scope for that electronic commerce context.

30
74. The method of claim 29 wherein the scope is specified by a filter that is applied when electronic commerce is conducted while that electronic commerce context is selected.

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75. The method of claim 29 wherein the limiting includes displaying only those items that satisfy a certain criteria.

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76. The method of claim 29 wherein the limiting includes allowing purchase of only those items that satisfy a certain criteria.

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77. The computer system of claim 29 wherein the component that conducts electronic commerce includes limiting the electronic commerce conducted to a specified scope for the selected electronic commerce context.

1 ⁴⁵~~78~~. The computer system of claim ⁴⁴~~77~~ wherein the scope is
2 specified by a filter that is applied when electronic commerce is conducted.

1 ⁴⁶~~79~~. The computer system of claim ⁴⁴~~77~~ wherein the limiting
2 includes displaying only those items that satisfy a certain criteria.

1 ⁴⁷~~80~~. The computer system of claim ⁴⁴~~77~~ wherein the limiting
2 includes allowing purchase of only those items that satisfy a certain criteria.

1 81. The method of claim 45 including limiting the electronic
2 commerce conducted to a scope that has been specified for the selected electronic
3 commerce context.

1 82. The method of claim 81 wherein the scope is specified by a
2 filter that is applied when electronic commerce is conducted.

1 83. The method of claim 81 wherein the limiting includes
2 displaying only those items that satisfy a certain criteria.

1 84. The method of claim 81 wherein the limiting includes
2 allowing purchase of only those items that satisfy a certain criteria.

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